



State Legislative Update for the Week of April 28 – May 2, 2014

Monday, April 28, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

HF1916, Special women veterans license plates authorized, and money appropriated, passed the House on a vote of 118-0.

Conference Committee

HF3172, Omnibus Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

Chairs: Rep. Lyndon Carlson and Sen. Richard Cohen

Agenda: Continuation of discussion of House-only and Senate-only provisions in the following areas:

Jobs/Commerce

Housing

Transportation

Public Safety

E-12

Health and Human Services

The following articles have language of Veterans interest in either the House version, the Senate version or both:

Article 1, Higher Education: Military Veterans Resident Tuition. A person who is honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States is entitled to the resident tuition rate at Minnesota public postsecondary institutions.

Article 4, Economic Development and Workforce Development: New Employee Training Partnership. The commissioner of Employment and Economic Development shall develop and implement a new employee training partnership to provide rebates to employers that hire and train new employees. Rebates for the cost of training employees for jobs outside the metro area are limited to a maximum of \$3,000 per employee, with the exception of training costs for an employee with a disability, an employee who was

considered long-term unemployed, or an employee who is a veteran, which is \$4,000 per employee.

Article 7 (Senate), State Government: *Veterans Housing Survey Grants.* \$250,000 in FY15 for up to five grants to conduct a housing needs assessment for veterans in a community.

Minnesota Humanities Center. \$125,000 is for the Veterans' Voices program to educate and engage the community regarding veterans' contributions, knowledge, skills and experiences. \$25,000 is for transfer to the Association of Minnesota Public Education Radio Stations for statewide programming to promote the Veterans' Voices program. *Expedited and Temporary Licensing for Former and Current Members of the Military.* Each professional licensing board shall establish a procedure to expedite the issuance of a license or certification and establish a procedure to issue a temporary license or certification to perform professional services to a qualified individual who is an active duty military member, the spouse of an active duty military members, or a veteran who has left service in the two years preceding the date of license or certification application. *Veteran-owned Small Businesses.* The Commissioner shall award up to a six percent preference in the amount bid on state procurement to certified small businesses that are majority-owned and operated by veterans.

Article 7, Public Safety and Corrections Appropriation: *De-escalation Training.* \$50,000 in FY15 for training state and local community safety personnel in the use of crisis de-escalation techniques for use with Minnesota veterans following their return from active military service in a combat zone.

Articles 11-13, Transportation Finance: *Women Veteran License Plates.*

Articles 14-15, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations: *Fish and Wildlife Management.* \$400,000 in FY15 from the heritage enhancement account in the game and fish fund for a grant to Let's Go Fishing of Minnesota to provide community outreach to senior citizens, youth, and veterans and for the costs associated with establishing and recruiting new chapters. The grants must be matched with cash or in-kind contributions from nonstate sources.

Article 28, Human Services Continuing Care: *Licensing Moratorium.* Exception to the licensing moratorium includes new foster care licenses or community residential setting licenses determined to be needed by the commissioner for the care of disabled veterans or veterans requiring nursing home level care in veteran exclusive homes.

Moratorium on Development of Group Residential Housing Beds. An exception for county agencies to enter into agreements for a group residential housing provided operating a facility of up to 45 beds, providing services to veterans as a board and lodging facility with supportive services or licensed chemical dependency treatment program.

Article 30, Human Services Miscellaneous: *Group Residential Housing Agreements.* The commissioner may enter directly into an agreement with a provider serving veterans who meet eligibility criteria of this section and reside in a setting located in Stearns County. Responsibility for monitoring and oversight of this setting shall remain with Stearns County. This agreement may be terminated with or without cause by either the commissioner or the provider with two months' notice.

HF3167, Omnibus Supplemental Tax Bill.

Chairs: Rep. Ann Lenczewski and Sen. Rod Skoe

Agenda:

Same provisions for action

Similar provisions for discussion and action

Unsession provisions for discussion

The House version contains two articles of veterans interest. Article 2, section 8 extends the time period for the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran to continue to receive the disabled veteran's property tax benefit from five to eight years and Article 4, section 7 extends the existing military pay subtraction to National Guard members in Active Guard/Reserve and individuals in active status under the state adjutant general.

The Senate version also contains two articles of veterans interest. Article 4, section 12 provides a \$200 per month credit for each month that an individual served in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area anytime on or after January 1, 2014. An amendment to this provision is needed to specify that the current \$120 per month credit is applicable for service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area after December 31, 2008 and before January 1, 2014 so that an individual may not claim both. The pay received must have been excluded as combat pay from federal gross income for federal purposes and the claimant's home of record must have been in Minnesota. Article 4, section 13 increases the credit amount from \$750 to \$1,500 for individuals who separated from military service before the end of the year and served at least 20 years in the military, had a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent total and permanent, or were honorably discharged and receive a pension or other retirement pay for service in the military.

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

The Senate adjourned to attend the Joint Convention in the House Chamber to receive the State of the State message delivered by the Honorable Mark Dayton, Governor.

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Conference Committee

HF3167, Omnibus Supplemental Tax Bill.

Chairs: Rep. Ann Lenczewski and Sen. Rod Skoe

Agenda:

House Property Tax provisions. The section of Veterans interest was not covered.

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

Friday, May 2, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of Veterans interest: None